



Press Clips

(August 5, 2018)

CLIPS CONTENT

FROM THE OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)

- **Report: Mike Scioscia expected to step down at the end of the season**
- **Felix Pena loses duel with reigning Cy Young Corey Kluber as Angels fall to Indians**
- **Angels' Tyler Skaggs shelved with left groin injury**
- **Mike Trout out of Angels lineup for the 3rd straight game with a sore wrist**

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (PAGE 7)

- **After Angels loss, a report that manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down**
- **Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs must wait to redeem himself after being placed on 10-day DL**

FROM ANGELS.COM (PAGE 10)

- **Report: Scioscia to step down after 2018**
- **Pena takes no-no into 6th, but Halos blanked**
- **Trout unable to swing; Skaggs to 10-day DL**

FROM THE ATHLETIC (PAGE 14)

- **Rosenthal: Sources say Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down at the end of the season**

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (PAGE 15)

- **Report: Angels manager Scioscia expected to step down**
- **Kluber dominates Angels with three-hitter, Indians win 3-0**

FROM ESPN.COM (PAGE 18)

- **Report: Angels manager Mike Scioscia expected to step down at end of season**

FROM NBC SPORTS (PAGE 19)

- **Angels place Tyler Skaggs on 10-day disabled list**
- **Report: Mike Scioscia to step down after the 2018 season**

FROM THE OC REGISTER**Report: Mike Scioscia expected to step down at the end of the season**

By Jeff Fletcher

CLEVELAND — Mike Scioscia, who has less than two months remaining on his contract as the Angels manager, is expected to step down at the end of the season, according to a report published in the Athletic on Saturday night.

Neither Scioscia nor General Manager Billy Eppler would comment about the report on Saturday night. Scioscia has repeatedly refused to say much about his future.

There has been widespread speculation that Scioscia's tenure as the Angels manager was going to end after this season, his 19th running the club, but there has been no firm indication from any of the principals about their plans.

Scioscia had issues with former general manager Jerry Dipoto, but by all accounts he and Eppler had a good relationship for most of their three seasons working together. The report indicated that Scioscia was not being pressured to step down.

Scioscia, 59, said at the end of last season that he did not want to discuss an extension over the winter. He is at the end of a 10-year deal.

The Angels are 55-57, a disappointing season for a team that was expected to be in the thick of the race for the postseason. The Angels have had their roster ravaged by injuries for a third straight season.

Scioscia won the Manager of the Year award twice, including the 2002 season when he led the Angels to a World Series title. The Angels went to the playoffs again in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Since then, their only playoff appearance was in 2014, when they were swept by the Kansas City Royals.

If Scioscia is not back as the Angels manager, bench coach Josh Paul would be one of the leading candidates to replace him. Paul worked with Eppler with the New York Yankees, and Eppler brought him into the organization last winter.

The Angels also hired former Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus as a special assistant over the winter.

Felix Pena loses duel with reigning Cy Young Corey Kluber as Angels fall to Indians

By Jeff Fletcher

CLEVELAND — It didn't matter to Felix Peña that he had made a dramatic improvement from his last outing.

The result was the same.

One start after he got knocked out in the first, Peña took a no-hitter into the sixth before eventually allowing a couple runs that were all it took for the Angels to lose 3-0 to the Cleveland Indians and Corey Kluber on Saturday night.

Peña was able to outduel a two-time Cy Young winner for part of his outing, but Kluber went the distance in a three-hitter against an Angels team playing once again without injured Mike Trout.

“It doesn’t really matter if it was a good game or a bad game,” Peña said through an interpreter. “The primary idea is to win. That’s what I strive for.”

A 28-year-old forced into the Angels rotation because of injuries, Peña had posted a 2.73 ERA in his first six starts. The last time, though, against the Seattle Mariners, he got only one out and gave up seven runs.

With a chance to show if that was an aberration or the beginning of the end for the converted reliever, Peña threw 12 balls in his first 18 pitches against the Indians.

He managed to escape that potentially troublesome first inning with two walks, thanks to catcher Francisco Arcia throwing out Francisco Lindor trying to steal.

Peña said he tweaked his mechanics after that, aligning himself more with the plate, and it showed.

Over the next four innings, he did not allow a hit and he only walked one. In those innings he threw 47 pitches and 30 were strikes.

“Once he found the zone,” Manager Mike Scioscia said, “he matched Corey, pitch for pitch.”

Facing a Cleveland lineup that included two MVP candidates — José Ramírez and Francisco Lindor — among the seven left-handed swingers, Peña did not allow a hit in the first five innings.

As he took the mound in the sixth, the video board at Progressive Field showed Peña with the caption: “Currently throwing a no-hitter.”

If they were trying to get in Peña’s head, it didn’t work.

“My plan is never to look up at the scoreboard,” Peña said.

No more playful attempts to jinx Peña would be necessary. Five pitches later, Peña gave up a homer to Leonys Martín. Lindor then doubled and scored on a Michael Brantley single. Peña retired Ramírez before his night ended with a career-high 86 pitches.

At that point, though, too much damage had already been done. Kluber retired all nine Angels hitters in the final three innings, his second complete game of the year.

Their only real shot at a rally was in the third, when Eric Young Jr. doubled and Kole Calhoun walked. Justin Upton hit a flyout and Shohei Ohtani grounded out.

“Corey is tough,” Scioscia said. “We had some chances early, but he does so many things with the ball. We hit a couple of balls hard, had guys on, couldn’t get that hit to get us on top. He pitched a great game obviously.”

Angels’ Tyler Skaggs shelved with left groin injury

By Jeff Fletcher

CLEVELAND — Days after the worst start of Tyler Skaggs’ career, it got even worse.

Skaggs was placed on the disabled list on Saturday with a left groin injury that he began to feel while he was giving up a career-worst 10 runs on Tuesday at Tampa Bay.

Skaggs, who was scheduled to start on Sunday in Cleveland, is now hoping he’ll be able to go next Saturday, after his 10-day disabled list stint ends. Deck McGuire is likely to take Skaggs’ spot on Sunday.

“I know it’s not very serious, but it’s extremely, extremely frustrating,” Skaggs said Saturday. “Words can’t even describe how frustrated I am at the moment, especially after the outing I had. I really want to come back and pitch the way I have been all season. It’s extremely frustrating. I’m not happy at the moment right now.”

Skaggs has a 3.34 ERA in what has been the best season of his big league career. He is also now two years clear of any arm trouble.

This is, however, the third time he’s had his routine altered by a lower body injury. In June, he felt some tightness in his right groin area and had a start pushed back a few days, although he didn’t go on the disabled list. He came back and pitched twice, and then was still bothered enough that he did go on the disabled list.

He missed the minimum time, as he had said he planned, and he made his next four starts without issue. On Tuesday, though, he suffered through the worst start of his career. He threw 33 pitches in the fourth inning and registered one out, with seven runs eventually being charged to him that inning.

That’s when he started to feel something.

“It was a bad outing no matter what,” Skaggs said. “I wasn’t injured. Just a (crummy) outing. But in the last inning I threw (33) pitches, mostly out of the stretch, and I kind of fatigued myself.”

Skaggs said he feels like his left side was overworked compensating when he had the issues on the right side a few weeks earlier.

In the meantime, the Angels recalled Taylor Cole to take his place on the roster. Cole was available out of the bullpen on Saturday. McGuire also reported to the team in Cleveland on Saturday, most likely to start on Sunday.

ALSO

Kaleb Cowart was starting at third base over Luis Valbuena for the second straight day. Valbuena had played most of the year against right-handed pitchers, but he began losing playing time to David Fletcher earlier this month. After Ian Kinsler was traded, moving Fletcher to second, Valbuena got another couple starts at third. Valbuena has two hits in his last 26 at-bats, and he hasn't hit a homer since June 23.

UP NEXT

Angels (RHP Deck McGuire, 0-1, 6.12) at Indians (RHP Shane Bieber, 5-2, 4.73), Sunday, 10 a.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM).

Mike Trout out of Angels lineup for the 3rd straight game with a sore wrist

By Jeff Fletcher

CLEVELAND — Mike Trout's recovery from a jammed right wrist has not gone quite as smoothy and he had hoped or expected.

A day after Trout said he was "pretty sure" he'd be able to play, he was still not in the Angels lineup. He remains day to day.

"Injuries heal at their own pace," Manager Mike Scioscia said Saturday, the third straight game Trout was not in the lineup. "You can project and be hopeful, but you can't move forward until these things are at a level where you can go out and play, and he's not there yet."

Trout jammed his wrist, bracing himself against the dirt on a feet-first slide in the first inning of Wednesday's game. He continued to play that game as a designated hitter, but he said he was still felt discomfort in his wrist.

Trout did some throwing before Saturday's game, and he tried to swing but he still "felt it pretty good."

Trout said he still considers himself day to day, so they will see how he feels when he gets to the ballpark on Sunday.

"I want to be out there," Trout said. "It's obviously frustrating. You don't want to be sitting on the bench watching your team out there. It is what it is. I've got to take care of it."

FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES**After Angels loss, a report that manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down**

By Mike DiGiovanna

The Angels made no noise in a 3-0 loss to the Cleveland Indians on Saturday night, as Corey Kluber threw a three-hit shutout against them in Progressive Field, but they made plenty of news after the game.

Ken Rosenthal of the Athletic, citing unidentified major league sources, reported that Scioscia, baseball's longest-tenured manager, is expected to step down at the end of the season, when his 10-year, \$50-million contract expires.

Scioscia, in his 19th season with the Angels, left the stadium by the time the report was posted and could not be reached for comment. General manager Billy Eppler declined to comment.

Scioscia and Eppler, who appear to have a much better working relationship than Scioscia and former GM Jerry Dipoto, agreed last winter to table any job talks until after the season, and Scioscia has said little publicly about his contract status all year. The Athletic indicated that Scioscia is not being pressured to step down.

Scioscia, who turns 60 in November, has built a Hall-of-Fame worthy resume, leading the Angels to the 2002 World Series title, six division titles and the AL championship series in 2005 and 2009. He ranks 18th on the all-time managerial win list with 1,625 victories.

But the Angels have reached the postseason only once in eight years, they haven't won a playoff game since 2009, and they are nearing the end of another disappointing, injury-plagued season, falling to 55-57 and 11 games back in the AL wild-card race after Saturday night's loss.

If Scioscia steps down, Eppler would have three in-house candidates to replace him in former Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus and former Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez, who are special assistants to the GM, and Josh Paul, the former big-league catcher who is in his first season as an Angels bench coach.

Paul, who played with the Angels in 2004 and 2005, has not managed above the Class-A level, and Chavez has never managed.

The Scioscia story overshadowed a strong start by Angels right-hander Felix Pena, who no-hit the Indians for five innings before cracking in the sixth, when he gave up a leadoff homer to Leonys Martin, a double to Francisco Lindor and an RBI single to Michael Brantley for a 2-0 Indians lead.

That was all the offense Kluber would need. The two-time Cy Young Award winner blanked the Mike Trout-less Angels for his seventh career shutout. Kluber (14-6) struck out seven, walked one, and of his 98 pitches, 64 were strikes.

"Corey is tough," Scioscia said. "We had some chances early, but he does so many things with the ball. We had guys on, but we couldn't get that hit to get us on top. He pitched a great game, obviously."

The Angels' best chance came in the third when Eric Young Jr. doubled with one out and Kole Calhoun walked. Justin Upton, who is zero for nine with six strikeouts in the series, flied to right, and Shohei Ohtani grounded out.

Ohtani, who had four hits, including two homers, in Friday night's win, was hitless in four at-bats with two strikeouts.

"He did a good job moving the ball to both sides of the plate, and he got under his swing a bit," Scioscia said. "Corey was tough on all of us, and he pitched Shohei tough, too."

Pena retired one batter in last Sunday's start against Seattle, giving up seven runs on six hits and two walks in an 8-5 loss that taxed the bullpen for 8 2/3 innings.

He appeared headed for another rocky start when he walked two and threw twice as many balls (18) as strikes (six) in the first inning Saturday night. But Pena escaped the jam and, after a little front-end alignment, retired eight straight from the first through third innings.

"It had to do with mechanics," Pena, speaking through an interpreter, said of his first-inning struggles. "I was not facing the catcher. I was not straight. I was a little sideways. In the second inning, I started facing him, and that's when I found my release point."

Watching from the railing in the first-base dugout was Trout, the Angels center fielder and two-time AL most valuable player who missed his third straight game because of a right-wrist injury. He is questionable for Sunday's series finale.

"I want to be out there," said Trout, who was able to throw but couldn't swing a bat Saturday. "It's obviously frustrating. You don't want to be sitting on the bench, watching your team out there. It is what it is. I've got to take care of it."

Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs must wait to redeem himself after being placed on 10-day DL

By Mike DiGiovanna

Redemption will have to wait for **Tyler Skaggs**. The Angels left-hander was placed on the 10-day disabled list because of a left-groin strain Saturday, knocking him out of Sunday's scheduled start against the Cleveland Indians.

Skaggs hoped to make amends for what he said was "probably the worst outing I've had in my life," a 3 1/3-inning, 10-run, eight-hit effort in Tuesday night's 10-6 loss at Tampa Bay. He expects to return next Saturday against Oakland at Angel Stadium.

"I know it's not that serious [of an injury], but it's extremely, extremely frustrating," said Skaggs, who is 8-7 with a 3.34 ERA in 20 starts this season. "Words can't describe how frustrated I am at the moment, especially after the last outing I had."

"I really want to come back and pitch the way I have been all season. I'm not happy at the moment but hopefully I'll be back on Saturday ready to roll."

Since Skaggs missed all of 2015 and most of 2016 because of elbow ligament-replacement surgery, his injuries seem to have migrated south.

He missed three months of 2017 because of a rib-cage strain and two weeks this past July because of a right-groin strain. He had one start pushed back in late June because of a tight right hamstring.

"My arm feels great," Skaggs said. "It's unbelievable, man, because I do everything in my power to be ready to go, and these things keep nagging at me. It's the epitome of the season for us."

Skaggs began to feel discomfort during Tuesday's game, and his condition worsened during a 33-pitch fourth inning in which he gave up seven runs and four hits. He threw a bullpen session Friday, after which the Angels made the decision to put him on the DL.

"I think I was overcompensating for my other leg," Skaggs said. "I threw 40 pitches [sic] out of the stretch in that last inning and fatigued myself. My left leg has been doing all of the work for a month, and now that one doesn't feel good."

Reliever **Taylor Cole** replaced Skaggs on the roster Saturday. Right-hander **Deck McGuire** will start Sunday.

Trout out

A sore right wrist kept **Mike Trout** out of the lineup for a third straight game Saturday. The center fielder was able to throw but was unable to swing the bat with enough force to play. **Mike Scioscia** said Trout might be available to pinch-run Saturday night.

"He's moving in the right direction, but he's not able to swing in a major league game," Scioscia said. "He didn't have a setback, but injuries heal at their own pace. We're hopeful [he can play Sunday], but you can't move forward until these things are at a level where he can go out and play, and he's not there yet."

Trout suffered the injury on an awkward feet-first slide into third base in the first inning of Wednesday night's 4-2 loss at Tampa Bay, jamming his right hand into the ground as he tried to avoid a tag on a stolen-base attempt by sliding to the inside of the bag.

Learning curve

Jaime Barria didn't get the win Friday night, but Scioscia liked the way the rookie shook off a rocky start in which he gave up three runs in the first two innings to blank the Indians from the third through fifth innings. The Angels won 7-4.

"As he grows and understands fastball command better, where to throw it and when to use it, he has a really wide array of things he can do against a hitter," Scioscia said. "We love his makeup, and I think that's why he's going to figure a lot of this out."

“Things started to tilt the wrong way [Friday night] and he made the adjustments, reset himself and gave us a chance to win. You can’t teach that in a young pitcher, and we’re excited about that.”

7:20 p.m.: This article was updated to report that Deck McGuire will be the Angels’ starting pitcher Sunday.

FROM ANGELS.COM

Report: Scioscia to step down after 2018

By Maria Guardado

Mike Scioscia's 19-year tenure in Anaheim appears to be coming to an end.

Scioscia is expected to step down as the Angels' manager when his 10-year, \$50 million contract expires at the end of the season, **according to a report in The Athletic from MLB Network insider Ken Rosenthal**. Scioscia's decision is of his own volition and is not a result of pressure from the club, per the report.

General manager Billy Eppler declined to comment on the report Saturday.

Scioscia, the longest-tenured manager in baseball, has skippered the Angels since the fall of 1999, guiding the club to its first and only World Series title, in 2002, and winning six American League West titles and two Manager of the Year Awards, in 2002 and '09. Under his leadership, the Angels have gone 1,625-1,402 and posted a .537 winning percentage since the 2000 season.

But the Angels have not won a postseason game since 2009 and have only one playoff appearance since then, which ended in a sweep at the hands of the Royals in the 2014 American League Division Series.

Despite entering the 2018 season with heightened expectations, the Angels have once again been plagued by injuries and are on track to miss the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season. At 55-57, they are in fourth place in the American League West, 15 1/2 games behind the first-place Astros and 11 games behind the A's for the second American League Wild Card spot.

Scioscia, 59, has consistently deflected questions about his future with the organization, preferring to keep the focus on 2018. His 19-year run with the Angels is the longest since Bobby Cox managed the Braves for 21 seasons, and is the sixth-longest in Major League history.

Bench coach Josh Paul and special assistants Brad Ausmus and Eric Chavez are among the candidates to replace Scioscia as Angels manager, according to Rosenthal.

Pena takes no-no into 6th, but Halos blanked

By Casey Harrison

CLEVELAND -- It looked early on as if **Felix Pena** was going to have a special game at Progressive Field on Saturday.

Pena, the 28-year-old right-hander who entered the game with a 5.23 ERA, held the American League Central-leading Indians hitless into the sixth inning before allowing a string of hits breaking up the bid for history, but Indians ace **Corey Kluber** was even better, as Cleveland's right-hander dealt a 98-pitch complete game to shut out the Angels, 3-0.

Kluber (14-6) held the Halos (55-57) to three hits, surrendered a walk and struck out seven to earn a share for the most wins in the American League, tied with the Yankees' **Luis Severino** and Boston's **Rick Porcello**. Two of the hits allowed by Kluber were soft singles from **Andrelton Simmons** and **Albert Pujols**, who both went 1-for-4. Cleveland's All-Star and the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner also gave up a double to No. 9 hitter **Eric Young Jr.**

"He stayed on top of us -- he pitched ahead in the count and he pitched a terrific game for those guys," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We had some chances early, but he does so many things with the ball. We had some guys on, hit a couple balls hard, but we had a couple guys on and couldn't get a hit that could have gotten us on top."

It took the Tribe until the sixth to crack Pena (1-3), who allowed his first hit on a leadoff home run by newly acquired center fielder **Leonys Martin**. The homer was one of three straight hits allowed by Pena, which was all he gave up in 5 1/3 innings, allowing two runs, walking three and striking out one.

"We just couldn't get a bead on him," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "He was maybe effectively out of the zone. He has good stuff, a real good breaking ball."

Following Martin's homer, **Francisco Lindor** doubled off the left-field wall and came around to score on a single to center field from **Michael Brantley** to make it 2-0. Pena induced a flyout from **Jose Ramirez** before getting pulled for **Jim Johnson**, who recorded the final two outs in order to escape the frame.

Despite holding the Indians hitless, Pena struggled to find the strike zone through the first two innings. He needed 28 pitches to get through the first two frames -- and only 11 were called for strikes by home-plate umpire Joe West.

Pena exited after 86 pitches -- 47 of which were thrown for strikes.

"It had to do with mechanics," Pena said through a translator. "I felt like I wasn't facing the catcher straight, a little sideways. In the second inning, I started to face him, and that's what the problem was."

Pena was tagged for seven runs in one-third of an inning on Sunday against the Mariners, marking his worst start of the season. Scioscia said he noticed Pena struggled with fastball command early, just like the right-hander's last start.

"Like in his last start, he struggled with his command, and I think they put seven runs on the board," Scioscia said. "The results were better, but the early process he was having trouble finding the zone again. Once he did, his stuff was great. He matched Corey pitch for pitch probably for three straight innings. We just couldn't get anything going."

Though Pena's start was a promising step in the right direction, he didn't think the ends were enough to justify the results.

"My plan is to never look up at the scoreboard, so I can focus and execute my game," Pena said. "It doesn't really matter if it was a good game or a bad game. The primary idea is to win the game whenever. So that's what I strive for."

REPORT: SCIOSCIA TO STEP DOWN AFTER 2018

According to a report from MLB Network insider Ken Rosenthal published in the Athletic after the game, sources say Scioscia is expected to step down as the Angels' manager at the end of the season. Scioscia, who turns 60 on Nov. 27, is nearing the completion of a 10-year, \$50 million contract. His 19-year run in Anaheim is the longest managerial stint since Bobby Cox managed the Braves for 21 seasons, and is the sixth-longest in Major League history.

- **Scioscia to end Angels tenure after 2018**

Scioscia led the Halos to a World Series championship in 2002, six division titles, and has won two American League Manager of the Year Awards in 2002 and '09. According to the report, it's unclear if Scioscia intends to manage again.

SOUND SMART

Pujols' sixth-inning hit broke an 0-for-18 career line for the first baseman against Kluber. Of the 248 pitchers against whom Pujols has logged 15-plus plate appearances in his career, Kluber was the only one to hold him hitless.

HE SAID IT

"I tried to test it today. Throwing wasn't terrible, it was just sore. When I was swinging, I felt it pretty good. I kind of just came in, felt almost the same as yesterday. It's a day-to-day thing, if I come in tomorrow and it feels good, we'll see where I'm at. I want to be out there. It's obviously frustrating. You don't want to be on the bench while your watching the game out there." -- **Mike Trout**, *who has been day to day since Wednesday with a right wrist contusion, on missing time*

UP NEXT

Sunday's scheduled starter **Tyler Skaggs** was **placed on the 10-day disabled list** with a left adductor strain and the Angels will recall **Deck McGuire** (0-1, 6.12 ERA) to fill in. The Indians will counter with rookie right-hander **Shane Bieber** (5-2, 4.73 ERA), who allowed four runs -- three earned -- in 6 1/3 innings against the Twins in his last start. First pitch is scheduled for 10:10 a.m. PT at Progressive Field.

Trout unable to swing; Skaggs to 10-day DL

All-Star center fielder will be reevaluated Sunday; lefty has left adductor strain

By Casey Harrison

CLEVELAND -- **Mike Trout's** recovery from a right wrist contusion is taking longer than expected.

Trout was again out of the Angels' lineup Saturday against the Indians at Progressive Field, and he hasn't played since sustaining the ailment in the first inning of the Halos' 7-2 loss to the Rays on Wednesday, making it the third consecutive game the All-Star outfielder has missed. Manager Mike Scioscia said he thought Trout may have been able to pinch-hit if needed on Friday, but revealed pregame on Saturday that Trout is unable to swing a bat due to the injury.

Scioscia insisted Trout hadn't experienced any setback and that Trout's ability to throw has not been compromised. He will be reevaluated again on Sunday.

"Mike is moving in the right direction, but is not able to swing right now," Scioscia said. "We're still day to day with him. His swing is getting better, but he's not able to go out there."

Eric Young Jr. started in center in Trout's place, a day after going 2-for-3 in the team's **7-4 win** against the Tribe, which halted a four-game losing streak.

Trout hurt his wrist and exited Wednesday's game in St. Petersburg after sliding into third base on a steal attempt. He tried to hook around the bag to avoid a tag from third baseman **Matt Duffy**, but tweaked his right wrist while bracing for his slide. X-rays and an MRI revealed only inflammation.

"Injuries heal at their own pace," Scioscia said. "You can project it, you can be hopeful, but you can't move forward until they're at a level where he can play. And he's not quite there yet."

Trout, who turns 27 on Tuesday, is batting .309 with a 1.083 OPS and 30 home runs in 109 games. He said in the clubhouse Friday that he only wanted to return when fully healthy to play in the outfield, and would rather not play as the designated hitter.

Skaggs to DL with adductor injury

The Angels also placed left-handed starter **Tyler Skaggs** on the 10-day disabled list, retroactive to Wednesday, with a left adductor strain and recalled right-hander **Taylor Cole** from Triple-A Salt Lake. Scioscia said Cole will be available Saturday if needed.

Skaggs was scheduled to start the series finale Sunday, but Scioscia said it became apparent the starter had tweaked something during his start last Tuesday after giving up 10 runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings to the Rays.

Scioscia also said he's optimistic Skaggs will only miss the 10 days that are required, but didn't say if the southpaw had resumed throwing.

"Tyler felt a little tight in his last start [in] his groin, coming out of it," Scioscia said. "We're not going to take any chances, it's just better that he catches his breath a bit. Hopefully it's just one start that's missed."

Though Scioscia didn't name a starter for Sunday, he anticipates recalling right-hander **Deck McGuire** from Salt Lake to provide additional help.

In 20 games this season, Skaggs is 8-7 with a 3.34 ERA. Cole has appeared in six games for the Angels this season and has a 2.25 ERA and 13 strikeouts in 12 innings. McGuire has appeared in seven games with the Angels, and has a 5.94 ERA in 16 2/3 innings.

FROM THE ATHLETIC

Rosenthal: Sources say Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down at the end of the season

By Ken Rosenthal

Bill Clinton was still president when Mike Scioscia managed his first game for the Angels on April 3, 2000. Mo Vaughn batted third for the Angels that day. Ken Hill was the starting pitcher.

Scioscia's 19-year run in Anaheim is the longest since Bobby Cox managed 21 straight years with the Braves and the sixth longest in major league history, according to STATS LLC.

For Scioscia, it apparently is enough.

Scioscia, nearing the completion of a 10-year, \$50 million contract, is expected to step down at the end of the season, according to major-league sources. His decision not to pursue a new deal would be his alone and not the result of pressure from the club, sources said.

Scioscia, who turns 60 on Nov. 27, has built a Hall of Fame resumé with the Angels, winning the 2002 World Series, six division titles and two American League Manager of the Year awards. It is not clear whether he would want to manage again immediately, but a number of positions are expected to open this offseason, creating opportunities for him to pursue a fresh start.

Both Scioscia and general manager Billy Eppler declined comment, consistent with their approach since the end of last season when asked about Scioscia's expiring contract. Scioscia has put off any talk of his status, preferring to focus on the performance of his club, which got off to a 13-3 start after a seemingly fruitful offseason that included the addition of Japanese sensation Shohei Ohtani. A devastating series of injuries, however, helped sink the Angels' chances; at 55-57, the team is 15 1/2 games out in the AL West.

Three potential successors to Scioscia already work for the Angels — former Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus and former major-league third baseman Eric Chávez, both of whom are special assistants

to Eppler; and former major-league catcher Josh Paul, who is in his first season as Scioscia's bench coach. Paul has not managed above Class A. Chavez has never managed.

The Angels almost certainly would look outside the organization as well. The list of currently unemployed managers includes Joe Girardi, John Farrell, Dusty Baker and Mike Matheny, all of whom lost jobs within the past year. Other candidates might become available as teams make changes or managers' contracts expire; the Los Angeles Dodgers' Dave Roberts, for example, is unsigned beyond this season.

While Angels owner Arte Moreno is loyal to Scioscia, the only manager Moreno has employed since buying the club in May 2003, the team might opt for a change even if Scioscia wants to stay. The trend in the game is toward hiring inexperienced managers who connect with both data-driven executives and young players. Scioscia, by all accounts, gets along well with Eppler, who became GM in October 2015. His relationships with his players are believed to be good. He might simply decide it is time for both him and the franchise to move forward.

Under Eppler, the Angels have hired a number of coaches with little or no connection to Scioscia, including Paul, pitching coach Charles Nagy, hitting coach Eric Hinske and bullpen coach Scott Radinsky. Ron Roenicke, a coach under Scioscia from 2000 to '10 and also in 2016-17, left the Angels last off-season to become the bench coach for the Boston Red Sox.

Amid the staff changes, the Angels have become less competitive in the increasingly strong AL West. A third straight losing season would be a first for the franchise under Scioscia, whose overall record as manager is 1,625-1,403, a .537 winning percentage. The team has reached the postseason only once in the past eight seasons and has not won a playoff game since 2009.

Next year will not necessarily be better; Ohtani has a Grade 2 sprain of his ulnar collateral ligament that makes his ability to pitch uncertain, and right-hander Garrett Richards, another of the team's top starters, recently underwent Tommy John surgery and is a free agent. The Angels' long-term future will become even murkier if center fielder Mike Trout, a seven-time All-Star, hits the open market as scheduled after the 2020 season.

If Scioscia steps down, he might want to take time off. Or he might want to jump right back into managing with a team that seems more likely to contend. Either way, he would be determining his own fate, avoiding a potentially messy parting with a team he helped define for nearly two decades, making one last timely call.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report: Angels manager Scioscia expected to step down

By Tom Withers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down at the end of this season, according to a report by Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic.

Scioscia has managed the Angels since 2000 and is the longest-tenured manager in the majors. Only four managers in baseball history have managed one team for more consecutive seasons than these 19 by Scioscia.

The 59-year-old Scioscia led the Angels to a World Series title in 2002.

The Athletic's report was pinned on unidentified major league sources and surfaced late Saturday night following the Angels' 3-0 loss at Cleveland. Scioscia is under contract through the end of 2018. The Angels are 55-57 this year.

A voicemail left by The Associated Press with a media relations member traveling with the Angels was not immediately returned.

Scioscia has 1,625 career wins. The former big league catcher led the Angels to six division titles and seven playoff appearances.

Kluber dominates Angels with three-hitter, Indians win 3-0

By Tom Withers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Corey Kluber appears to be over whatever was making him look ordinary.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner pitched a three-hitter for his first shutout this season and new arrival Leonys Martin homered again for Cleveland, leading the Indians to a 3-0 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday night.

Kluber (14-6) got better as the game went on, and his performance eased any concerns the Indians had about the star right-hander. Kluber had lost two of his three previous starts and received an injection in his right knee before the All-Star break. He walked one, hit a batter and struck out seven.

He's back.

"It's wonderful," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "It seemed like he was in command the entire night, and early on we weren't doing anything offensively, so it wasn't like he had a cushion to pitch with."

Kluber matched zeros for five innings against Felix Pena (1-3), who carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning before Martin hit a leadoff homer. Martin has quickly endeared himself to his teammates and Cleveland fans by hitting two homers and batting .500 with three RBIs and three runs in just three games since being acquired in a trade with Detroit.

"I'm really happy, man," Martin said. "I came here to help. And I want to do my best to help this team to get where we want. We've got a long way to go still."

The AL Central-leading Indians only got four hits but notched their 60th win.

The Angels were again without All-Star outfielder Mike Trout, who missed his third straight game with a sore right wrist.

But even with Trout in the lineup, Los Angeles would have had a tough time against Kluber. The right-hander was never in trouble and he cooled off Japanese star Shohei Ohtani, who homered twice in Friday's win.

Ohtani came in batting .643 with four homers and eight RBIs in three games against Cleveland, but went 0 for 4 and struck out twice against Kluber.

"It wasn't a whole lot different than what we had been (doing), or at least I tried to do the last time I pitched against him," said Kluber, who gave up Ohtani's first homer on April 4. "Last time he hit the home run off me, I made a mistake up and out over the plate. I just didn't make that mistake tonight."

Pena didn't get out of the first inning in his previous outing, and the right-hander started poorly, walking the first two batters. However, Pena settled in and didn't give up his first hit until the sixth, when Martin drove a 3-1 pitch 415 feet to right-center.

Moments before Martin connected for his second homer in two days, the Indians attempted to jinx Pena by displaying — "Felix Pena is currently throwing a no-hitter" — on Progressive Field's enormous scoreboard.

The strategy worked as Martin ended Pena's flirtation with history. The Indians added a second run when Francisco Lindor followed with a double and scored on Michael Brantley's single.

"Got the ball right in the middle, and thank God, I put a good swing on it," Martin said.

SUPER SHORTSTOP

Lindor took an infield hit away from Justin Upton with a sensational play in the sixth

Upton hit a pop between the mound and second base that the All-Star shortstop snagged barehanded on one hop before throwing in time to get the Angels left fielder.

Martin remembers Lindor making similar plays against him.

"I used to hate that guy," he said, smiling. "I use to hate him. He's really good. He's one of the best in the game. He made that play look so easy."

TROUT UPDATE

Trout expressed frustration that his wrist isn't healed. He's still having trouble swinging since injuring his wrist while sliding on Wednesday.

"It's just a day-to-day thing," he said. "I want to be out there. It's frustrating. You don't want to be sitting on the bench watching your team out there."

STAR POWER

Ohtani showed off his power to all fields in Friday's game, homering to right and left against Mike Clevinger.

Although Ohtani doesn't have a typical slugger's swing, Francona says he's got plenty of pop.

"And he can run," Francona said. "He's an interesting guy. He's got a chance to be pretty special."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: LHP Tyler Skaggs was placed on the disabled list with a strained hip muscle. Manager Mike Scioscia said Skaggs, who was scheduled to pitch Sunday's finale, felt tightness in his previous start on July 31.

Indians: C Yan Gomes will be out of the starting lineup for several games due to hamstring tendinitis. Gomes has been bothered with the condition for a while, and aggravated his leg while running out a double in the second inning on Friday.

UP NEXT

Indians rookie Shane Bieber will make his first start against the Angels, who will call up rookie Deck McGuire from the minors. Bieber pitched into the seventh inning against Minnesota on July 30, but didn't factor into the decision.

FROM ESPN.COM

Report: Angels manager Mike Scioscia expected to step down at end of season

Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down at the end of this season, according to a report Saturday night by The Athletic.

Scioscia is in the final year of a 10-year contract, and the decision not to seek a new contract is his alone, according to the report, which cited major league sources.

The 60-year-old Scioscia is in his 19th season at the helm of the Angels. They last made the playoffs in 2014 and last won a postseason series in 2009, but Scioscia's Angels did win the World Series in seven games over the San Francisco Giants in 2002.

Last October, after Los Angeles finished the 2017 season at 80-82, Scioscia said he was fine coming back to the Angels on an expiring contract and would be focused solely on 2018. He reiterated that in a text message to ESPN's Alden Gonzalez on Saturday night.

"Nothing has changed since I spoke on this last October," the manager said in the wake of The Athletic report. "I am focused on this year and will talk to Arte [Moreno, Angels owner], John [Carpino, Angels president] and Billy [Eppler, Angels general manager] after the season."

Eppler declined comment to ESPN.

The Angels are 55-57 this year and sit in fourth place in the AL West, 15.5 games behind the first-place Astros.

Scioscia is the longest-tenured MLB manager, and San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich (21 seasons) is the only active head coach in the NBA, NFL or NHL with a longer run with a team.

There have been 111 other full-time MLB managers since Scioscia's run with the Angels began in 2000, a total that jumps to 131 including interim managers. The Miami Marlins have had nine managers in that span, the most of any team. Only Adrian Beltre and Bartolo Colon were active players in 2000 and remain in the majors today.

The Athletic said it isn't clear whether Scioscia would want to manage another team starting in 2019 or if he'd take time off before pursuing another opportunity.

FROM NBC SPORTS

Angels place Tyler Skaggs on 10-day disabled list

By Ashley Varela

Southpaw **Tyler Skaggs** was placed on the 10-day disabled list with a left adductor strain, the Angels announced Saturday. In a corresponding move, right-hander Taylor Cole was recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake.

Skaggs, 27, told reporters he expects to miss the minimum after sustaining the injury during a 10-6 loss to the Rays on Tuesday, during which he yielded 10 runs on eight hits and three walks in 3 1/3 innings. It doesn't appear to be a serious injury, and Skaggs' "**extreme frustration**" over the injury and bad start is somewhat tempered by the 3.34 ERA, 2.7 BB/9 and 9.4 SO/9 he's maintained over 113 1/3 innings this year.

In the interim, 28-year-old Cole will replace the ailing lefty on the Angels' roster for his second major-league stint of 2018. He impressed in his first brief showing in the majors, allowing three runs and striking out 13 batters across 12 innings. He hasn't been quite as successful in Triple-A, however, where his 10.3 SO/9 is chained to a 5.12 ERA and 4.3 BB/9 across 52 1/3 innings so far.

Report: Mike Scioscia to step down after the 2018 season

By Ashley Varela

Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic **reports** that Angels manager Mike Scioscia is expected to step down from his position after the 2018 season. The club has not officially confirmed the decision, however, and nothing appears to be finalized just yet.

Nothing has changed with regard to Scioscia's contract with the team, which was already set to expire after the season. It's important to note that his expected decision isn't coming from any dissatisfaction on the Angels' part, either — Rosenthal clarifies that there's no pressure on the 59-year-old skipper to step down.

Rather, it seems to be the natural conclusion of an impressive 19-year managerial track in the majors, one that gives Scioscia the sixth-longest tenure (with a single team) of any MLB manager behind Connie Mack, John McGraw, Walter Alston, Bobby Cox and Tommy Lasorda. He's checked off every box worth filling, from a World Series championship in 2002 to the winningest season in franchise history (100-62 in 2008) to the oversight of some of the best and brightest talents in the game and two American League Manager of the Year Awards (2002, 2009) to boot.

Still, there are plenty of reasons Scioscia might be ready to hang up his cap by the end of 2018. The veteran skipper hasn't seen a winning season since 2015 nor a playoff run since 2014, and the current roster isn't exactly positioned for a postseason run as they sit 15.5 games back of the division-leading Astros. Through Saturday, the team is two wins shy of .500 with a 55-57 record in 2018, bringing Scioscia's running total to 1,625 career wins and 1,403 losses. There's no word yet if he plans on seeking another role within the Angels' organization or a managerial role with a different team, or if he simply intends to enter a well-deserved retirement.